

Outdoor Report

The week of December 15th, 2014



South Dakota



Wildlife Division

"Serving People, Managing Wildlife"

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- Muzzleloader deer season runs December 1st – 31st. Antlerless muzzleloader deer season runs January 1st – 15th.
 - Sand Lake Refuge archery deer season reopened on December 8th – 31st. **Reminder:** Archery antlerless deer licenses are not valid in Sand Lake Refuge.
 - Canada goose season closes December 16th.
 - Pheasant season is open from December 8th to January 4th on Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge and Renzeihausen GPA in Brown Co., White Lake GPA in Marshall Co. and Gerken GPA in Faulk Co.
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Brown County



Fishing Report:

Richmond Lake: Fishing has been slow.

Elm Lake: Fishermen are catch many small walleye. The ice is around 10-12 inches thick, so use caution.

James River: Parts of the river still have open water. Ice fishing is not advised on the river at this time.

Elm River: No fishing activity.



Hunting Report:

Pheasant: Hunters have had to work to get a limit of birds. Most hunters are finding pheasants in cattail sloughs. Hunters have been seeing pheasants, but overall, hunting cattails has been tough.

Waterfowl: With all the water freezing up, most of the waterfowl have migrated out of the area. There are still some small flocks of mallards and Canada geese by Sand Lake Refuge.

Deer: A few archery and muzzleloader hunters are still out trying to fill their tag.

Clark County



Fishing Report:

Dry Lake #2: Little activity.

Dry Lake #1: Fishermen are catching a few perch and walleye.

Swan Lake: Little activity.

Antelope Lake/ Indian Springs: Fishermen are catching a few walleye and perch.

Reid Lake: Fishermen are catching a some perch and walleye.

Casey's Slough: Fishermen are catching walleye. The walleye are averaging on the smaller side with a few nice fish being caught.

Pepper Slough: Fishermen are finding a few walleye.

Mankey's Slough: Fishermen are catching a few nice walleye and perch.



Hunting Report:

Deer: Deer are still grouped up around food and shelter sources.

Pheasants: Hunters are still reporting about 2 – 3 birds per hunter. Birds are spooky this time of year and a little more difficult to hunt.

Codington County



Fishing Report:

Ice conditions have worsened over the weekend with warm temperatures. We are asking anglers to proceed with caution and try to walk out if possible.

Pelican Lake: No activity.

Lake Kampeska: No activity.

Dry Lake: No good perch bite yet, but walleye fishermen have had some luck after dark on the west end.

Goose Lake: Goose is still a popular lake with 20 to 50 fishermen on the ice daily. Reports are inconsistent with some anglers catching limits and some anglers not marking a fish.

Long Lake: No activity.

Blythe Slough: A good perch bite continues at times. The perch are decent with sizes ranging from 8 to 11".

Grass Lake: A few nice walleye are being caught.

3rd Ave Pond: Still offering good opportunity to anglers in and around town to catch bluegill, trout or sunfish.

Stink: Very little activity this week, but a few small perch were caught.



Hunting Report:

Pheasant: We're seeing a few hunters around the county, but success has been limited. Most hunters are seeing the birds get up in front of them due to the lack of snow cover to hold them tight.

Deer: There is still an opportunity to fill late season youth and archery tags.

Day County



Fishing Report:

Bitter: Anglers are having some success catching quality perch and a few walleye.

Waubay: Anglers seem to be concentrated on the north end of the lake near Grenville and Buckshot's landing. They are catching some nice perch and numerous small walleye.

Enemy Swim: **Use caution as a four-wheeler and ice shack went through the ice last weekend.** A few anglers are trying church bay, targeting walleye and bluegill.



Hunting Report:

Pheasant: Hunters are having to work hard for some late season pheasants.

Deer: Deer movement has slowed down a little bit in the past week.

Deuel County



Fishing Report:

Lake Alice: **There is dangerous ice and open water. Use extreme caution!!** Anglers are fishing the southwest corner of the lake. A few perch and northern pike are being caught throughout the daytime. Most anglers are catching some walleye in the evening hours.

Lake Cochrane: Anglers have been venturing out a little bit and catching some bluegill, perch and crappie.

Lake Francis: Low fishing pressure. A few perch are being caught.

Lake Ketchum: A few small perch and bluegill are being caught.

Clear Lake: No activity. There are patches of open water. Use caution.

Fish Lake: No activity.

Round: A few northern pike are being caught.

School: Anglers continue to catch northern pike close to shore on the south end of the lake. A few smaller perch are scattered in the catches as well.

Bullhead Lakes: A few anglers are catching some smaller perch and walleye. Overall, the fishing pressure has been slow.



Hunting Report:

Pheasant: Hunters have been having a little more success with the snow. Cattails along frozen sloughs have provided pretty good opportunity for pheasant hunters.

Deer: Hunters are finding deer and having success. Deer are grouping up and moving to their wintering grounds.

Faulk County



Fishing Report:

Lake Faulkton: A few anglers are beginning to ice fish.



Hunting Report:

Pheasant: Hunters are having great luck finding birds in the eastern portion of the county.

Deer: Deer have started grouping up in their wintering grounds.

Grant County



Fishing Report:

Big Stone Lake: The perch bite has been hit and miss. Most anglers are fishing near the Rearing Ponds Lake Access. Spikes have been the bait of choice. 7+ feet of water has been the most productive. Anglers may need to move around to stay on the fish. There are a lot of small perch, but if you are patient you can catch a lot of fish over 10 inches. No reports of walleye activity.

Summit Lake: No report of activity.



Hunting Report:

Pheasant: Hunters are seeing a few more birds now that the snow is here. Hunters are still going to have to put on a lot of miles walking to find much success.

Deer: Deer hunters have had good success.

Hamlin County



Fishing Report:

Lake Poinsett: A few fish are being caught around the lake, but nothing consistent this week.

Lake Norden: No Activity.

Lakes John/Marry: No Activity.

Fedt Slough: Good numbers of small perch are being caught.

Clear Lake (Thomas): Some fishermen with very little success.

Three Buck: A ton of small perch can be caught in the 6 inch range.



Hunting Report:

Pheasant: We're not seeing many hunters around. Hunters who have been out are seeing the pheasants get up wild in front of them due to the mild weather.

Deer: There is a couple weeks left to fill archery, youth and muzzleloader tags.

Marshall County



Fishing Report:

Opitz: A few walleye are being caught, but slow.

Piyas: Some very nice walleye and perch are being caught.

Roy: A few northern pike, perch and walleye are being caught.

Clear: Slow.

White: Some nice crappie and the occasional walleye are being caught in the morning and evenings.

Stink: A few walleye are being caught in the morning and evening.

South Buffalo Lake: Walleye, northern pike, perch and bluegills are being caught.



Hunting Report:

Deer: The deer are moving in the morning and evenings. Marshall County does NOT have a January antlerless season.

Pheasant: The hunters are finding birds in heavy cover. Birds are very spooky. Pheasant hunters are having good success in cattails. Use caution on small sloughs as some ice may be unsafe.

McPherson & Edmunds Counties



Fishing Report:

Scatterwood Lake: Anglers have been catching a few walleye and northern pike. Evenings seems to be the best time to try.



Hunting Report:

Pheasant: Still good numbers of hunters around this area. Hunters are starting to have better success. Hunters targeting cattail sloughs and heavy cover areas and finding decent amounts of birds.

Deer: Muzzleloader, youth and archery deer seasons are still going on. Deer are bunched up and mostly in pasture areas.

Coyotes: Hunters looking for coyotes will find plenty in this area. Most landowners will allow a hunter to shoot coyotes.

Roberts County



Fishing Report:

Lake Traverse: Some activity, but action is slow.

Dry Wood Lake: A few walleye and northern pike are being caught. Be cautious of the ice conditions.



Hunting Report:

Grouse: Grouse hunters are struggling to find birds. Season closes January 4th.

Pheasant: Hunters are working hard to find one or two. Season closes January 4th.

Deer: Youth, muzzleloader and archery deer hunters can still find deer. Roberts County does NOT have a January antlerless season.

Spink County



Fishing Report:

Twin Lake: Anglers are trying some ice fishing and catching a few small walleyes.

Mud Lake: No fishing activity observed.

Cottonwood Lake: Ice is around a foot thick. Anglers are catching a few small walleye. A few vehicles are driving out on the ice. Use extreme caution.

Redfield Lake: No fishing activity observed.



Hunting Report:

Pheasant: Hunters are continuing to pick up good numbers of pheasants. The warm weather spread the birds out some.

Deer: Several nice bucks were taken throughout the county.